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YOU BE THE CRITIC

The column where readers have their say

Juan knows what he's talking about

Having been away from Montreal for the summer, I was on my return pleased to find an added segment to the entertainment section, the "You be the critic" column.

Many Montrealers seem to be enthralled with the idea of issuing their own, somewhat mundane opinions on entertainment as well blasting *The Gazette's* entertainment critics for their supposed lack of tact, knowledge and/or judgment.

But perhaps the most interesting aspect of this column has been the criticism that Juan Rodriguez has received for his candid reviews of concerts. Obviously for those music fans (and I use the term reluctantly) who feel that groups such as Supertramp possess any redeeming qualities, there is going to be some bone of contention.

This is, however, due to ignorance on their part, and not Rodriguez! It should be obvious that Rodriguez is one of the few critics in Canada who knows what he is talking about.

There is however, a more basic element to Rodriguez' reviews, one that is more indicative of rock at the present time. What we have been witnessing for the last four or five years has been the somewhat slow and cancerous death of rock. The great majority of musicians who had their heyday a decade ago are now either burnt out, unemployed or dead.

Thus, we have been left with a few old rockers playing the same old song, punk, which is nothing more than reactionary, and "new wave," which is far from new.

Obviously, there are notable exceptions, Steely Dan, for one. Due to the marketing techniques of record companies such as Columbia, and the downfall of F.M. radio in Monreal, one is led to believe that not only great albums, but classic albums, are being produced every day. This is surely far from the truth.

Rock, and in some respects jazz, seems to be floundering in a sea of misdirection and commercialism and is in danger of losing its artistic and creative roots.

In this light, it is easy to understand Rodriguez' reviews. And if he is hard on the majority of groups that come to Montreal, it is only because he writes objectively and honestly. Bravo, Juan!

M. Minnes
Montreal

Rodriguez' record rating just doesn't rate at all

I don't understand where Juan Rodriguez gets the idea to rate records. For instance, on Sept. 1 he rated the new Led Zeppelin album (*In Through The Out Door.*) He starts by saying Zeppelin is back once more with a great new album and says that Jimmy Page in more ways than one is still one of the best guitarists today. That is, "Page's guitar work stings as well as bleeds."

People can take that two ways. I decided to take the positive way. Anyway, with that great review, there just had to be a put down: "Robert Plant sounds as if he's vomiting the words." What a joke! Plant has been the No. 1 rated vocalist for quite a while and still is.

But, of course, who am I to disagree with Sir Juan Rodriguez, alias Rex Reed? This will probably not be printed, but if it is, I'm sure most people will agree with me that Mr. Rodriguez is not very capable of judging people when he couldn't sing a single note to compared to Robert Plant.

Donald Jones
Montreal

This is the worst album Led Zeppelin has made

I must take exception to Juan Rodriguez' review of *In Through The Out Door* by Led Zeppelin (Sept. 1). Contrary to what he says, this is the worst Led Zeppelin album to date and one of the worst rock albums ever to beperpetrated on the record-buying public. It is dull, boring and uninspired.

I had to look at the liner notes to make sure Jimmy Page was still with the band. There is not one memorable riff, let alone guitar solo, on the album and Robert Plant sounds so lethargic, it's unreal. But if I had to sing this material, I would be lethargic, too. This album is a pure money gig, a real rip-off!

Anyone who buys this album before they hear it is a real sap. I don't know about Juan Rodriguez, but I'm still waiting for the new Led Zeppelin album.

Carl Balzamo
Montreal

Review of Swan Lake disturbing, disappointing

As a ballet lover and dance student for more than 20 years, I found Linda Howe-Beck's non-review of the National Ballet's Swan Lake (Sept. 7) both disturbing and disappointing.

Surely *The Gazette* readership deserves more than a vitriolic but uninformed attack against the Canadian classical company. Howe-Beck disliked the performance, but she made no comment whatever on the historical or experimental quality of the choreography.

Had I been reviewing Swan Lake after my attendance, I would have taken a more positively critical approach. Negative criticism is never very helpful.

H.P. Robson
Montreal

I agree with Bailey

Having suffered through the *A Chorus Line* in London, England, two years ago, I agree with both Messrs. Bailey and writer Samuelson. The whole thing stank.

John Clark
Westmount

The Gazette welcomes your letters on all aspects of the world of entertainment — and any comments on our critics. Send them to: You Be The Critic, Entertainments Dept., The Gazette, P.O. Box 6036, Montreal.

WHAT'S ON WEEKEND

THEATRE

The Owl and the Pussycat by Bill Manhoff, at the Phoenix Theatre, 1658 De Maisonneuve. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow and Sun., 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. 931-0787

Spell-Bound by Dorothy Parker at the Tuesday Night Cafe Theatre, McGill University, Morrice Hall, Rm. 106, across from 3480 McTavish. Tonight and tomorrow, 8 p.m. Tickets available at the door, or for reservations, call 392-4637, all tickets $2.

The Prisoner of Second Avenue, written by Neil Simon and directed by David Spencer continues at the Actor's Studio, 7050 Victoria. Tonight through Sun., 8:30 p.m., until Oct. 14th. 342-4591

Tout Seul Comme Deux presented by Le Theatre Petit a Petit at Le Cafe Nelligan, 550 Dorchester Blvd. Cast includes Pierre Leblanc and Claude Poissant; directed by Annie Gascon, runs until Sept. 30. Tonight through Sun., 8:30 p.m. 288-9535

Balconville, directed by Guy Sprung at The Centaur Theatre, 453 St. Francois Xavier St. in Old Montreal, continuing until Sept. 29th. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 2:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.; Sun., 7:30 p.m. 288-1229.

Juliette et ses Hommes presented by La Compagnie Jean Duceppe. Written by Sam Havens and directed by Jean Besre at Theatre Port-Royal, Place des Arts. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 5 p.m. and 9 p.m., until Oct. 24th. 842-2112.

Harold et Maude at Theatre du Rideau Vert, 4664 St. Denis St., continuing until Sept. 29th. Tonight, 8 p.m.; Sun., 7 p.m. 844-1793.

La Collection de Madame Suzanne at Cafe de la Place, continues until Oct. 20. Tonight and tomorrow, 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tickets, $5.50. 842-2141, ext. 365.

La Poudriere, Ile Ste. Helene. Alan Ayckbourn's caustic comedy *Absent Friends*, continues until Sept. 29th. Tonight, 8:30 p.m.; tomorrow, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. 526-0821.

La Peur Surtout at Le Theatre Experimental des Femmes, 320 Notre-Dame St. 2nd floor, continues until Oct. 6th. Tonight and tomorrow, 9 p.m. Tickets, $3. 879-1306.

OUT OF TOWN

Grand Theatre marking its one-hundredth birthday will feature a three week long festival of entertainment ending Oct. 14th. The birthday party's events will range from poetry reading and midnight rock concerts to the Kingston Symphony and the Shaw Festival Company plus more. Tonight through Sun. 218 Princess St. Kingston, Ont. (613) 546-1756.

Les Emigres at Ottawa's National Arts Centre, continues until Oct. 20th. (613) 996-5051.

CLUBS

Gringos, 1471 Crescent St., downstairs. **Sun.:** Daphne Lindmar, starting at 9 p.m. 288-2651.

Frier's Pub, 1445 Crescent St. **Tonight to Sun.:** Short Notice. Showtime: 9:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. 849-9086.

The Maples, 121 Lakeshore Rd. in Pointe Claire. **Tonight:** Onex. **Tomorrow and Sun.:** Les Pucks. 694-2479.

Le Pretzel Enchaine, 2112 Clark St. **Tomorrow and Sun.:** Garry Nurton. 286-9075.

Rainbow Bar & Grill, 1436 Stanley St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Backtrack Blues Band. 849-8262.

The Mustache, 1445 Closse St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Changes. 931-2575.

Stitches, 1470 Crescent St. **Sun.:** Standup comedy. Showtimes: 8:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Admission $3. For auditions, phone 842-3713.

L'Imprevu, 446 Place Jacques Cartier in Old Montreal. **Tonight through Sun.:** Les Freres Brosse. 878-9397.

Lancer Pub, 1240 Drummond St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Carl Peterson, Andy Vine and Duke Walker. First set at 9 p.m. Free admission. 866-6492.

Yakitty-Yak, 1240 Drummond St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Gary Gleam. 866-6492.

Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Bill Garrett. **Sun.:** A hootenanny. Doors open at 8 p.m. 392-4947.

Rising Sun, 286 St. Catherine St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Phil Woods Quartet. 861-0657.

St. James Pub, 1197 University St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Richard Duffy. 861-4662.

The Hunter's Horn, 1214 Peel St. **Tonight and tomorrow:** The Clahanes. **Tonight through Sun.:** Peter Suttie, upstairs in The Parlour. 861-8022.

L'Air du Temps, 191 St. Paul St. in Old Montreal. **Tonight:** Denis Lapage. **Tomorrow and Sun.:** Jim Zeller. Admission, $2. 842-2003.

Salle Bonaventure, Queen Elizabeth Hotel. City Lights Revue featuring Roxanna Ward. Shows at 9:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., tonight; 9:30 p.m. and midnight, tomorrow. 861-3511.

Cock 'n Bull Pub, 1944 St. Catherine St. W. **Tonight and tomorrow:** Jerry Preston. **Sun.:** Al Peter's Dixieland Band, 9 p.m. 933-4556.

The Piccadilly, Sheraton Mt.—Royal Hotel, Peel St. **Tonight through Sun.:** Dancing with The Royals, featuring singer Lorraine Foster. 842-7777.

Le Caf' Conc', Chateau Champlain. Tonight, singer, Rina Berti; pickpocket, Bob Arno; and illusionist, Dino, perform 8:45 p.m. and 11:15 p.m.; tomorrow, 8:30 p.m., 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. 878-1688.

FRIDAY

MUSIC

Chamber Music performed by Maurice Fuks and Reynald L'Archeveque, violinists; Stephen Kondaks, viola; Guy Fouquet, cello; and Carmen Picard, piano. Pollack Concert Hall, 555 Sherbrooke St. W. Free admission. 392-8224.

Fernard Gignac at Theatre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts, 8:30 p.m. 842-2112.

DANCE

Hema Malini and Troupe perform classical dances of India, 8:30 p.m. at Salle Claude Champagne, 220 Vincent d'Indy Ave., Outremont. Tickets, $8 to $20. 737-6511.

ETCETERA

Dancing — An evening of disco and rock 'n roll dancing with Sheldon Kagan, outside Place Ville Marie, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Free admission.

Redevelopment in Old Montreal — Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. is sponsoring a slide show with still photographs of the problems and redevelopment of Old Montreal at 6 p.m. 329 Commune St. W. 283-5256.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Heaven Can Wait, 7; The Champ, 7:15; Grease, 9:15; The Exorcist, 9:45; A Clockwork Orange, midnight.

Conservatory of Cinematographic Art (879-4349) The Gold Diggers of 1935, 7; La Passion de Jeanne d'Arc, 9.

L'Imprevu (878-9397) Un Genie, Deux Associes et une clouche, 3:30.

Ouimetoscope (525-8600) L'Aventure c'est l'aventure, 7:15, 9:15; Le Monde de l'ouest, 7, 9, 11.

Outremont (277-4145) Transamerica Express, 7; Furie, 9:30.

Seville (932-1139) Superman, 7; Midnight Express, 9:30; Sensations, midnight.

SATURDAY

MUSIC

Fernard Gignac at Theatre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts, 8:30 p.m. 842-2112.

Theatre du Nouveau Monde presents Gilles Vigeault at 84 St. Catherine St. Reservations: 861-0563.

Andre Strawinski, pianist performs works by Chopin, Schumann and Schubert at Theatre de Quat Sous, 100 Pine Ave., 8:30 p.m. 845-7277.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Grease, 7; Heaven Can Wait, 7:15; Richard Pryor Live In Concert, 9:15; The Champ, 9:45; The Exorcist, midnight.

Conservatory of Cinematographic Art (879-4349) Gold Diggers of 1937, 7; Process de Jeanne D'Arc, 9.

L'Imprevu (878-9397) Moby Dick, 5:30.

Ouimetoscope (525-8600) A La Recherche de M. Goodbar, 2:30, 5, 7:30.

Outremont (277-4145) Tombe Les Dilles et Toi, 7:30; Furie, 9:30.

Parallele (843-4725) La Nuit de la Poesie, 7:30, 9:30.

Seville (932-1139) The China Syndrome, 6:30; The Deer Hunter, 8:45; Dawn of the Dead, midnight.

SUNDAY

MUSIC

Jeunesses Musicals du Canada presents duo pianists, Louis-Philippe Pelletier and Eugene Plawutsky performing music written for children. The programme includes works by Claude Debussy; *Mother Goose*, by Maurice Ravel; and the complete works by Georges Bizet at the Foyer of the Piano Nobile; Place des Arts. Tickets, $1. 271-2566.

Fernard Gignac at Theatre Maisonneuve, Place des Arts, 8:30 p.m. 842-2112.

The Little Singers of Mount Royal, under the direction of Gilbert Patenuade will present *Missa Douce Memoire* by Lasus and offertory by Palestrina, 11 a.m. at St. Joseph's Oratory, 3800 Queen Mary. 733-8211.

Theatre du Nouveau Monde presents Gilles Vigeault at) 84 St. Catherine St. W. Reservations: 861-0563.

Andre Strawinski, pianist performs works by Chopin, Schumann and Schubert at Theatre de Quat Sous, 100 Pine Ave., 8:30 p.m. 845-7277.

LECTURE

Making Marriage Better is the title of his talk sessions, given by Rev. Calvin C. Ratz, 7 p.m. *Home Ain't What It Used To Be* is first of five talks in a series. Lakeshore Evangelical Church, Brookhaven Ave. in Dorval. 631-7249.

ETCETERA

Walking Tour of the Waterfront, 2:30 p.m. The bilingual one-hour tour will begin at the main entrance of Bonsecours Market and end at Place d'Youville. 283-4651.

Walking Tour with Save Montreal begins 2 p.m. at the northwest corner of de la Gauchetiere and Peel Sts.

REPERTORY

Cinema V (489-5559) Grease, 7; Heaven Can Wait, 7:15; Saturday Night Fever, 9:15; Swept Away, 9:45.

Conservatory of Cinematographic Art (879-4349) The Vagabond, Jeanne au Bucher, 7; Orfeu Negro (Black Orpheus) 8:30.

L'Imprevu (878-9397) Moby Dick, 5:30.

Ouimetoscope (525-8600) La Crime de L'Orient Express, 2, 4:30, 7, 9:30; La Belle Emmerdeuse, 1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:17, 9:15.

Outremont (277-4145) Le Convoi, 7; Au Dela du Bien et du Mal, 9:30.

Parallele (843-4725) La Nuit de la Poesie, 7:30, 9:30.

Seville (932-1139) A Little Romance, 4; The Deer Hunter, 6; Silent Movie, 9:30.

Band 'buries' star guitarist

Troiano keeps bad company

DOMENIC TROIANO
In full control

By JUAN RODRIGUEZ
of The Gazette

Domenic Troiano is one of the best guitarists to come out of Canada, with credits in numerous bands, including the Mandala, The James Gang and the Guess Who.

He's paid his dues and proved his mettle — and that's why it was somewhat of a shock to see him leading a group (at Le Pretzel Enchaine over the past two nights) that sounded as if it has yet to graduate from the Ontario bar circuit.

There's no doubt Troiano can do it all on guitar. He fingers his frets with such speed that it seems he's doctored the arm of his guitar with grease. He's able to turn a phrase effortlessly and is in full control of the many different kinds of sound effects he elicits from his beloved axe.

However, his technique and spirited drive are almost buried by the mundane jumble of styles inherent in his material and the oblivious manner in which his band dishes them out.

It's all well and good that the band can imitate a number of other styles — from funk to 'progressive' rock — but they're scrambled to the point of confusion. All you can hear is a series of cliches, presented with the standard rock moves, such as bassist Bob Wilson's supposed 'exhilaration' at playing the most routine lines.

Although keyboardist Rob Gusevs sloughs off an endless series of unbearable 'jazz-rock' cliches, the principal offender in the group is singer Roy Kenner. His sleazy delivery of the dreary lyrics seems to borrow much from the likes of Gino Vannelli and David Clayton-Thomas, but winds up sounding more like comic Andy Kaufman's lampoon of every second-rate bar singer.

The Troiano outfit, grinding it out across Canada plugging its *Fret Fever* album, only points out the dilemma that can befall the superior pop musician in this country.

In order to stay 'visible,' Troiano has sacrificed his own abilities for the sake of a band that churns up proven 'commercial' styles. What he winds up with is a poor reflection of his talents and a band that sounds worse than what it's imitating. Troiano and cohorts will be at the Maples, in Pointe Claire, on Monday night.

Murray captures Carnegie Hall

ANNE MURRAY
Emotional tears

NEW YORK — (CP) — With the words of her own hit song You Needed Me, Canada's songbird Anne Murray summed up the feelings of the audience at Carnegie Hall Wednesday night.

The response from the 2,800 fans who packed the auditorium was proof they really did need her.

As she took her bows after the final curtain, there were calls of "Annie, you're the best," and "You're dynamite."

The Carnegie date was sold out long before Murray and her entourage arrived in New York.

Both the prestige and the musical history of the old concert hall had made the Carnegie a long-time goal for the Nova Scotia-born singer. She told her audience as much and the statement was borne out by some emotional tears on her exit backstage.

Her first appearance at Carnegie Hall last January was cancelled on her doctor's orders because of her second pregnancy and an ear infection.

The ears are better now, although a couple of times Wednesday night the applause was almost enough to threaten new disorders.

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